



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

OGDENSBURG MAN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Suspect Had Several Hundred Images on His Computer

Ogdensburg, N.Y.—A retired banker from Ogdensburg, N.Y. is in custody today charged with purchasing images of child pornography from an Internet service and storing them on his computer. Arnold Hubsch, 52, was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents (ICE) this morning at his Washington Street home.

Buffalo Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Smith said, “ICE is committed to locating, investigating and arresting people who take part in the tragic exploitation of children by purchasing images of child pornography. It is shameful when a well known member of a community take part in a crime which leads to the international abuse of children by criminals.”

The investigation of Hubsch is part of ICE’s Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to protect children from criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, Internet child pornographers and human traffickers.

During the investigation Hubsch gave ICE agents consent to search his computer. After investigators uncovered hundreds of images of child pornography agents seized the computer. Hubsch is charged with knowingly possessing and receiving images of child pornography which is a violation of 18 United States Code Section 2252 (A). Possession of a child pornography image is punishable by up to 20 years in federal prison.

According to the criminal complaint filed in federal court today, Hubsch admitted that he purchased images of males and females between the ages of 6 and 18 in various stages of undress and also engaged in sexual activity with adults.

Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, more than 6,300 individuals have been arrested, including 380 people in New York State. The investigation of Hubsch grew out of an earlier investigation into a Belarus-based company that provided billing services for child pornography websites and operated child pornography sites of its own.

That investigation resulted in 236 of the Operation Predator arrests and an additional 1,000 arrests by foreign law enforcement acting on information provided by ICE.

The United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York will prosecute the case and Hubsch will have an initial appearance this afternoon before a federal Magistrate in Syracuse. The charge is an allegation and Hubsch is innocent until proven guilty.

Smith thanked members of the Saint Lawrence County Sheriff's Department for assisting ICE agents in the investigation.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.